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限定版特典スペシャルブック

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DATE A LIVE Install ARS

# デート・ア・ライブ 或守インストール

限定版特典スペシャルブック



デート・ア・ライブ  
或守クエスト  
**Date a Live Arusu Quest**

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*Maria is looking for love.*

*Shido and the other girls are caught up in the unusual days she creates.*

*A certain morning, upon waking up, Shido finds himself in a world of swords and magic.*

*"Shido Itsuka, please change yourself quickly."*

*Shido, once done changing clothes, became a knight, wrapped in light armor and with a sword on his hand.*

*The only way to change this world is---- to defeat the evil Demon King?!*

*Tohka became a "Priestess" and Maria a "Mage"?... .. And the rest of the heroines have different classes?!*

*This party with so much individuality, will it really be capable of defeating the evil Demon King----?!*

*This is the short story that tells the wild adventures of Shido and the heroines, "Arusu Quest".*

“Wake up. Wake up, my cute Shido.”

“Mmh... .. Uu... ..”

The morning of a certain day. Due to the sensation of being lightly shaken and Maria Arusu’s voice which made his eardrum vibrate, Shido woke up.

“Maria... ..?”

“Yes.”

Shido lifted his body while rubbing his eyes and said the girl’s name. Then, Maria answered him while slightly nodding her head.

She was a girl with beautiful ash blonde hair and a pair of blue eyes as her characteristic features. He didn’t know exactly how old she was, but maybe, due to her small and delicate physique, she looked younger than Shido.

Then...

“... ..Mmh?”

Upon seeing Maria, who was standing by the bed, Shido rubbed his eyes again.

The reason was simple. She, for some reason, looked like one of those mages who appear in fantasy games. She was wearing a black robe and was holding an ancient looking staff on her hand.

“... ..What are you doing dressed like that?”

“I’m a Mage.”

Maria calmly answered. She looked just like that.

“Well, I can see that, but why... ..?”

Shido interrupted his words in half.

Looking closely, not just Maria’s appearance, but also the inside of his own bedroom, which he had seen countless times, had transformed into what seemed to be a western structure from a long time ago.

“... ..”

He may still be dreaming. Shido, once again, strongly rubbed his eyes. However, the inside of the room didn't change back into the one he had seen so many times before.

"Just what the hell is going on... ...?"

"Shido Itsuka, please change yourself quickly."

While Shido was puzzled, Maria said that and gave him a change of clothes.

But what was on Maria's hands weren't clothing or the school uniform he always wore. It was a light armor and a cloak. By the way, on the wall there was a double edge sword standing in vertical position inside its sheath. ... ...How to put it? Wherever you looked, it was the equipment of an RPG hero.

"... ...What does all that mean?!"

Upon Shido's question, Maria tilted her neck strangely.

"I'm sure I told you about it last night, right?"

"Yesterday... ...?"

After listening to Maria's words, Shido frowned and searched through his memories ---- Then, he opened his eyes with an ["Ah."].

"----Shido Itsuka, I have understood. I believe that love is something that is born right during an extreme situation."

Yesterday night, Maria, who had come to the Itsuka residence's living room, uttered those words out of the blue.

"Well, what's wrong all of a sudden, Maria?"

"It's just that today, all day long, I was listening to what Tohka Yatogami and the girls had to say. ----About their encounters with Shido Itsuka."

"Encounters?"

"Yes. To know what love is, I thought it was necessary to know its starting point, that is, about the encountering moment; the moment the concept of love originated."

Maria said while looking straight into his eyes.

----"What is love?"

That was the question Maria kept repeating ever since she appeared in front of Shido---- And the proposition that could be the key to breaking the situation in which Shido and the others are at the moment.

Shido looked around with only his eyes while moaning [“\*Fuum\*”].

The usual walls, floor and roof. It was without a doubt the Itsuka residence's living room.

But this is the Itsuka residence and it is not at the same time.

That's right. Here it is---- the inside of the virtual space built by <Ratatoskr>.

A few days ago, Shido entered a certain game for his training in conquering the Spirits. However, an unexpected *bug* happened, and he ended up trapped without chances of going back to the real world.

That *bug* is believed to be the girl that now stands before Shido, Maria Arusu. And what she tirelessly repeats time and again is the question from before, "What is love?".

They believe that answering that question could be connected to the breaking of the current confining situation, and that's why Shido and the other girls, that just like him were led to the game world from the real world, are spending their days with Maria... .. But so far, there haven't been any worthwhile results.

“Anyway, the encounter... .. eh? It's true that that could be important, but what is it that you understood?”

“The way Shido Itsuka encountered with the girls was very varied, but there is a pattern. That's what I understood.”

“Pattern?”

“Yes. It's that most of them were during battles or risky situations.”

“... ..Ahh... ..”

Shido scratched his cheek while frowning. ... ..Now that he thought about it, he felt it was true.

Anyways, it could be said that it was something natural.

His little sister Kotori aside, with whom he had lived for many years, the rest of the girls that had been guided inside the game were either Spirits or AST members. Maybe it was something inevitable for that *first contact* to end up in violence.

“Then, what you learned from that was... ..”

“Right. That the beginning of love is always an extreme situation.”

Maria said that while pridefully sticking out her chest. Her expression hadn’t changed at all, but, for some reason, it felt like she looked triumphant, or like she was overflowing with confidence.

“... ..Well~... I wonder if it’s like that, right~?”

Shido answered her while scratching his cheek. Then, Maria strangely tilted her neck.

“Am I wrong?”

“U~um... It’s just that, well, the encounters I had with the girls, were *rare events* seen from a normal point of view. I believe that normal couples don’t have such violent encounters.

“That’s not true. There is something called the "suspension bridge effect". I believe it is possible for love to be born easily inside a spectacular adventure that makes the heart dance.”

“Well, you may be right, but... .. Wait, assuming that hypothesis is correct, what are you going to do?!”

Shido said while looking everywhere.

Shido and the girls are in the virtual space, but its model was the real Tengu city. The people that live there are also controlled by the AI, that is, they are *non-player characters*.

No new Spirits would appear, and the AST and DEM weren’t there. It was a world free of those real threats. In this place, it was impossible to wish something like the spectacular situation that Maria was talking about.

However, Maria nodded with a confident look.

“Don’t worry. I already thought about the method.”

“"Method"?... ... For heaven's sake, what are you planning to do?!”

Shido said that while sweat formed on his forehead. Then, Maria turned around with a spin while her skirt fluttered.

“You wait eagerly for tomorrow. ----Good evening, Shido Itsuka. Have a nice dream.”

She said and left walking briskly.

“Ah, wait... ...!”

Shido spoke to her, but Maria didn't stop. Slightly bowing at the end, she ended up going outside and left the Itsuka residence.

“... ..”

He didn't know what Maria was planning to do, but even if he thought about it he wouldn't solve anything. Shido scratched his cheek for a few moments and went upstairs to his bedroom.

“... ...Eh! This is that spectacular situation?!”

Now that he thought about it, he had the feeling that she had told him something like that. Shido's cheek slightly trembled while sweat formed on his forehead.

“Yes. ----That's why, Hero Itsuka Shido, let's go defeat the Demon King with our companions.”

“... ..”

Due to Maria's sudden proposal, Shido placed his hand on his forehead.

That's right. Maria can change the world inside the game at will. In fact, Shido and the Spirits were caught up in that several times too, and ended up with their relationships and personalities reconfigured differently to the real ones.

Looks like this time directed that power to the entire world and completely changed the virtual space that was displaying Tenguu city into a world that looked like a fantasy RPG.

“If we talk about adventures, then fantasy is a classic. That's what I've recorded. Added to the production of a dangerous situation, we will face adversities together.

The feeling of accomplishment from achieving something, I estimated that a situation like this is the means to knowing the true nature of love.”

Maria emphasized with her fist strongly clenched.

“So that was it, huh?... ..”

... ..A lot of things ran through his head, but, anyway, to return to their former world they have to answer Maria’s question. Shido raised both hands in resignation.

“Alright. I’ll accompany you. ... ..Now then, to defeat the Demon King, what do we have to do exactly?”

After hearing that, Maria nodded while looking satisfied.

“Yes. First we’ll gather companions to travel with us. Some very important young girls which whom you’ll share joys and sorrows, and which whom you’ll deepen bonds with. Throughout the journey, don’t hold back and promote love with them implicitly, please.”

“... ..If you tell me that right to the face, I’m begging to doubt this journey... ..”

Shido scratched his head while laughing bitterly. However, it looked like Maria didn’t care about that at all and placed the light armor and the cloak on the bed.

“For now, change yourself quickly, please. I’ll wait outside.”

After saying that, she exited the room and left.

Shido, who had been left alone in the room, let out a big sigh and equipped the change of clothes that Maria had left for him.

“... ..Ahh~.”

He then let out a wail softly while he looked at himself dressed in a complete hero fashion. ... .. Why is it? The design itself was great, but he felt oddly embarrassed about it.

Well, no use standing like this. Shido took the sword that was against the wall and quickly left the house following Maria.

“... ..! Uooh... ..!”

The moment he opened the door, Shido opened his eyes wide.

But that was totally understandable. After all, not just Shido's house, but the whole landscape, as far as the eye could see, had become into other worldly looking roads. Houses and roads of stone. Also, the people who walked the streets were wearing clothes that looked like they were from the European Middle Ages. From time to time, what passed by weren't cars, but horse-drawn carriages.

"This is amazing... ..!"

Shido was impressed with the extraordinary detail. He sent his sight to the left and right while opening his eyes wide.

"Appeared already, huh?, Shido Itsuka."

In that moment, he heard Maria's voice, which seemed to be waiting in front of the Itsuka residence. Even her appearance, which seemed weird just now, when looked at on these streets, strangely, it seemed to merge with the environment without drawing attention.

"Well then, let's go gather the companions at once."

"Yes... .. And well, how are we going to gather the companions?"

"There."

Maria said and pointed towards the building that was next to the Itsuka residence.

At the place where the apartment in which the Spirits live was originally built, a huge two-story building could be seen. Following the outline of the exterior wall, big barrels were aligned there and on the entrance a metal sign was hanging which seemed to imitate a bottle of beer.

"A tavern... ..?"

"Yes. Adventurers gather at taverns."

"U~mn... Well, I think you're right... .."

He was about to say ["But we are minors... .."], but saying that in *this* world is, probably, ridiculous. Shido stayed quiet and entered the tavern while being led by Maria.

Even though it was still midday, he could see a lot of people inside the tavern. They were different from the villagers who walked the streets. They wore armors and priest robes. He saw people that, in fact, looked like adventurers.

“Well then, let’s go see the owner of the tavern immediately to introduce us some adventurers.”

“Y-yes.”

Shido went to the back of the tavern as requested by Maria. And he arrived at the front of the ancient bar counter.

Then, the woman with a sleepy face standing there looked towards Shido and Maria.

“... ..Yaa, welcome. Is this your first time here?”

“Re-Reine-san?!”

Shido raised his voice in reflex. After all, the one standing there, was none other than <Ratatoskr>’s analyst officer and assistant teacher to Shido’s class, Reine Murasame.

And also, since she was wearing clothing that left the chest part excessively open, her voluptuous bust entered his visual field even if he didn’t want that. Shido looked away while his cheeks dyed red.

Although, of course, the one here couldn’t be the real Reine. Surely, just like the other people, she was an NPC displayed by the AI.

“Ma-Maria... what is this... ..?”

“She’s the owner of the "*Reine*<sup>1</sup> Tavern". She’ll introduce us our adventure mates. Greet her.”

“Y-yes... .. It’s a pleasure to meet you.”

“... ..Mh... Likewise.”

After Shido bowed his head, Reine answered him by waving her hand with shaky movements.

“I’m sorry this is sudden, owner, but, please, show us the adventurers.”

“... ..Aa... Is there any classes you wish for?”

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<sup>1</sup> In this case "Reine" is written in *katakana* as "レイーネ" (reiine). And apparently, that is how the French word "reine" is written in Japanese, which means "queen".

“Is there any?”

Maria looked towards Shido coinciding with Reine’s words.

“Eh? Let’s see... ... We have a Hero and a Mage, then, for example, a Priest that can heal us, or a Warrior that’s useful in battle, isn’t that the usual?”

“I see. Well then, first a Priest and a Warrior, please. The rest, whatever you recommend, owner.”

“... ...Mh... Understood. Well then----“

Reine hit her hands with a \*Clap, clap\*, and like answering that, from the direction behind the counter, a beautiful girl, with long night-colored hair and crystal pupils, appeared.

“! Tohka!”

“Ooh, Shido! Arusu!”

After Shido said her name, Tohka put a smile on her face.

“Tohka, what are you wearing... ...?”

Shido frowned while pointing at Tohka’s outfit. At this moment, Tohka was wearing a loose priest robe and was holding a khakkhara<sup>2</sup> decorated with a beautiful jewel with her hand.

“Umu! Looks like I’m something called a Priestess!”

After saying that, she confidently tuck out her chest together with an \*Ejjem\*.

However, and differently than Tohka who was full of confidence, sweat began to form in Shido’s forehead.

“Tohka is the Priestess... ... huh?

Why is it? He didn’t really have any bad intentions, but Tohka was more like the kind to go to the front lines and wave her sword all around the place.

“Nu? Is there a problem?”

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<sup>2</sup> Khakkhara (Resonant Staff or Monk Staff), is a wooden staff with rings on its end, used in Buddhism as a weapon or prayer tool.

“No, well, it’s not that, but... ... If you are the Priestess, does that mean you can use healing magic?”

“Umu... Of course! I’m the Priestess, after all!”

“Eh? Really?”

“... ... You don’t believe her?”

After Shido said that in surprise, Reine asked that while stroking her chin with her hand.

“U~mh... ... It’s not like I doubt it, but, how to say it? I just can’t picture it... ...”

“... ...In that case, I’ll have you see it for yourself. ----Arusu.”

“Yes.”

Immediately after nodding to Reine’s words, Maria suddenly crouched, and with the staff she was holding she hit Shido with all her strength on the shinbone<sup>3</sup>.

“It hurts!”

Due to the sudden attack, Shido crouched where he stood while holding his shinbone.

“Wh-what do you think you are doing out of the blue... ...?!”

“Now’s the time, Tohka Yatogami.”

“Ooh! Leave it to me!

Tohka nodded vehemently, and next, she bent her knees while rolling up her sleeves, and gently took Shido’s hand.

“Tohka... ...?”

“Don’t worry, Shido. Now I’ll diminish the pain.”

An instant after saying that, she looked down while holding Shido’s hand. That really looked like a priestess offering a prayer to God.

“I-I don’t believe it, really... ...?”

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<sup>3</sup> Shinbone: is the larger and stronger of the two bones in the leg below the knee in vertebrates, and it connects the knee with the ankle bones. (Wikipedia)

“\*Tooh!\*”

The moment Shido was whispering those words, Tohka bent Shido's middle finger with all her might, almost making it reach the back of his.

“\*Agyah?!\*”

He jumped up due to the sudden and intense pain. Maybe because she saw this, Tohka opened her eyes wide while looking surprised.

“Wh-what's wrong, Shido?!”

“What do you mean "what's wrong"?! What are you doing?!”

“Mu... ...? When it hurts somewhere, when you pinch somewhere else it conceals the pain. That's what Reine told me, so I put it into practice, but... ...”

“But now my finger hurts, right?!”

“... ...Ah!”

Tohka opened her eyes wide again while looking shocked. Looks like she finally realized.

“I-I'm sorry, Shido! Did it hurt you?”

“No... ... I'm fine. ... ...Well, it's true that it conceals the shinbone pain.”

“R-really... ...?”

After listening to Shido's words, Tohka relaxed her expression with great relief. ... ...Truth is that both the shinbone and the finger still hurt, but, in this case, it's better to say nothing more.

“... ...Well, Reine-san, what about the warrior?”

“... ...Mh.”

Shido looked at her while holding back his tears, and Reine, once again, clapped her hands.

Then, this time, from behind the counter a sound echoed as if something heavy was being dragged.

After a few moments, a girl with bluish purple hair wearing a sturdy armor in all her body and dragging a huge sword that seemed heavy appeared.

“\*Haa\*... .. \*Haa\* ... .. Thanks... .. a lot~... .. for... .. choosing... .. me~. I’ll sweep the floor... .. with our enemies... .. one after another... .. in no time... .. I am the Heavy Warrior with incredible power... .. of your *party*, Miku Izayoi... .. yes~?... ..”

“Mi-Miku... ..? Are you the warrior?”

“Ah, Darling... .. A pleasure to be with you~... ..”

After Miku said that with bated breath, she fell down sitting on the floor. Apparently, just by wearing the armor and carrying the sword, she entirely spent her physical power. ... .. It felt like the roles were clearly wrong, no matter how much you thought about it.

“... ..Hey, Maria. Don’t you think it would’ve been better if Tohka and Miku’s roles were the other way around?”

Shido softly asked her that, but Maria denied it by slightly moving her head to the sides.

“No problem. In fact, the more troubles there are, the happier you’ll be when you overcome them.”

“But even so... ..”

“More importantly, the next adventurer is coming now.”

Together with Maria’s words, Reine clapped her hands a third time.

However... .. from that moment many seconds went by, but no one appeared from behind the counter.

“Eh... ..?”

“... ..Wait here for a moment.”

After Shido tilted his neck, Reine walked toward the back of the store... .. A few seconds later, she came back while pulling the hand of a young girl with the face red as a tomato.

It was a petite girl with a puppet rabbit on her left hand. Right now she was covering her entire body with a big cloak.

“Yoshino... ..?”

“... ..! Shi-Shido... ..-sa----“

After hearing her name coming out of Shido’s mouth, Yoshino blushed even more.

“Ju-just what is going on?”

“»Ah~, well, it’s just that~...”

The moment "Yoshinon", the puppet, opened its mouth to answer Shido’s question, it also took one of the edges of the cloak that was covering Yoshino’s body and suddenly took it from her.

“Kya... ..!”

“Wha... ..?!”

Yoshino’s clothing which was being hidden by the cloak was exposed to the air. After seeing that, Shido, unconsciously, opened his eyes wide.

It wasn’t surprising, because what Yoshino was wearing right now was a dancer’s suggestive clothing, which surface was as small as a swimsuit.

“»Even though Yoshino is the Dancer, she’s embarrassed of her outfit, you know~?”

“Yo-Yoshinon... ..!”

Yoshino screamed with tears in her eyes, and once again picked up the cloak and covered her body. Then, she sat down next to the collapsed Miku.

“A-are you alright, Yoshino... ..?”

“U-uuuu... ..”

Yoshino looked at the floor in embarrassment. That was yet another horrible mistake with the roles.

“She’s the third one, right? Well then, the next one, please.”

But Maria didn’t give any importance to that and urged Reine to bring in the next adventurer.

“... ...Aa.”

Reine made a \*Clap, clap\* sound with her hands. Then, this time, unlike with Yoshino, a shadow flew out with tremendous speed. A moment later, the shadow stood in front of Shido's chest. And at the next moment, Shido felt that something cold was closely pressed against his throat.

“Wha... ..?!”

“Fufun... You're full of openings, Hero-sama.”

While Shido held his breath, the young girl, who was wearing a dark suit on her body and looked triumphant, raised up the corners of her lips in a small smile. -  
---It was Shido's little sister, Kotori.

At that moment, as if to match with that, Reine, who was crossing her arms, started talking.

“... ...She's our tavern's recommended adventurer, Kotori, the *Assassin*. I think she'll become a powerful ally of yours.”

“A-*Assassin*?”

“... ...That's right. Which means, she's a killer.”

“O-ohh... ..”

At last, a useful companion appeared. He let out a voice of admiration in reflex.

“.... ...Of course, her skills are not just assassination. She also manages infiltrations and reconnaissance, among other things.”

“That's incredible!”

“... ...And once the battle begins, with a speed imperceptible to the eye...”

“Yes, yes.”

“... ...she'll put a poisoned candy inside the enemy's mouth.”

“She does all that and ends up just poisoning them?!”

Shido let out an irrepressible cry, stepped back and looked towards Kotori's direction. When looking carefully, what she was pressing against his neck was not some sort of knife, but a lollipop.

“What’s the matter? Got a complaint?”

Kotori said that looking dissatisfied after putting the candy on her mouth. Shido scratched his cheek slightly.

“Well, since you have all those abilities, I think there are more effective ways to attack, right?”

“Stop complaining! Those are our politics!”

Kotori let out a nasal voice while raising up the candy stick. At that moment, Shido realized something.

“----Hey, Kotori. Is it alright for you to be eating that candy?”

“Eh?”

The moment Shido said that, Kotori’s face dyed bluish purple and fell backwards with foam coming out of her mouth.

“Abababababa...”

“Ko-Kotori?!”

“... ...This is bad. Tohka, use your anti-poisons magic.

“Umu! I’m on it!”

Tohka nodded to Reine’s words, and without wasting time, she began to strongly spin her arm and, \*Pum!\*, punched Kotori aiming for the stomach pit.

“\*Gefuh!\*”

Kotori let out an agonizing moan and at the same time, mixed with her saliva, a violet liquid, easy to identify, was expelled from her mouth. Looks like that was the poison that was inside the candy. Kotori’s face color slowly got better.

“Fuu... ... For now, that’s enough.”

“You used a physical technique?!”

After seeing Tohka with her hands on her hips like having accomplished a job, Shido unconsciously cried out.

“... ...Kotori is quite a careless one, isn’t she? She messes up sometimes.”

“Wouldn’t it be better if you just stopped putting poison in the candies?!”

“... ..Then, let’s go to the next adventurer.”

“Listen to what I’m saying, pleaseeeeeeeee!”

Despite his yelling, Reine paid no attention to him. Shido let out a big sigh. ... .. All that’s left was to pray for an adventurer to appear that could be moderately useful in battle.

“... ..Well then, who’s next?”

“... ..Aa, the Yamai sisters.”

“Kaguya and Yuzuru?... .. But, at any rate, their classes won’t fit them, right?... .. Will they be Sages?, Or maybe Merchants?”

“... What are you saying? They are *specialists* in air battles. They are the Dragon Knight.”

“Eh?”

Due to the sudden answer, Shido opened his eyes wide.

The Dragon Knight is, as the name implies, a knight riding a dragon. It holds incredible movility and attack power. There’s no doubt that it plays an important role during a battle. And what’s more, the Yamai sisters are originally the Spirit that controls the wind. Even the compatibility was perfect.

“Really?! That’s very promising.”

“... ..Aa. You can have great expectations. ----Kaguya, Yuzuru.”

Reine clapped her hands calling for them. Then, from behind the counter, suddenly, a great shadow appeared.

“Oh... ..!”

What he saw first was Yuzuru. Her body was wrapped in a thin armor decorated with fine crafts, and was holding a spear on her hand. She had an imposing figure. At first glance it could be seen that she’d surely be of great help during the battle.

----However...

“... ..”

When he saw the figure of the "dragon" that the imposing Yuzuru was riding, Shido was speechless.

But that was not surprising. After all, what Yuzuru was riding was a young girl who had the same face as her, and she was on all fours wearing a dragon costume.

"... ...Excuse me, Reine-san. What's that?"

"... ...I'll introduce you. Yuzuru, the Dragon Knight, and Kaguya, the Dragon."

"Reverence. It is a pleasure, Hero Shido.

"\*Mooooooooooooo!\*"

At the same time Yuzuru was talking, the dragon stood with an attitude that said she had had enough and sent Yuzuru flying backwards. But then again, she was the Dragon Knight. Yuzuru lightly twisted her body and landed on the floor beautifully.

"Why am I the Dragon and Yuzuru the Dragon Knight?! No matter how much I think about it, it seems really suspicious!"

"Doubt. I don't understand what is suspicious about it. Kaguya is Yuzuru's cute pet."

"What did you say... ...?!"

"Petting. There~, there, there."

Yuzuru started petting the front of Kaguya's neck, who had suddenly stood up, to appease her. Then, Kaguya went rolling on the floor with her belly up while moaning ["\*Uguu... ...\*"].

But then she greatly opened her eyes as if she had regained consciousness, and clinged to Yuzuru.

"Ha... ...! Hey, what do you think you're doing?!"

"Intermittent. Ea~sy, easy, easy."

"\*U-unyuu... ...\*"

Kaguya rolled on the floor again. ... ...She seemed to be enjoying it somehow.

Shido looked away from the two of them who were playing with each other, and once again looked towards Reine direction.

“... ..Well, who’s left?”

As expected, to defy the Demon King with this group was unthinkable. His only option was to pray for at least one companion who could behave correctly in a battle to appear.

“... ..Mh... Well then, let the next one come in.”

Reine clapped her hands, and again, from behind the counter, the figure of a person appeared.

But something felt different from just now. At the same time the figure appeared, the floor trembled slightly and sounds that seemed like roaring thunder could be heard.

“Wha-what is it... ..?”

\*Go, go, go ,go<sup>4</sup>\*... .. While giving off an incredible pressure, the young girl walked up to Shido... Hair lightly touching her shoulders. Facial features like those of a doll. ----It was Shido’s classmate, Origami Tobiichi.

However, for some reason, Origami was wearing clothes that were black as darkness itself, and there were horns on her head. At first sight it was impossible to tell what her class was.

“Origami? What’s with that appearance... ..?”

“I’m the Demon King.”

“The Final Boss?!”

Origami answered like nothing happened. Shido, who couldn’t help it, cried out.

“No, this is too weird, right?! Why is the Demon King in the tavern ?! Defeating the Demon King was the objective of our adventure, right?!”

“... ..Calm down.”

While Shido was confused, Reine said that to calm him down.

“Even if she’s the Demon King, she’s not the same enemy you have to defeat. Come on, this is something very frequent, isn’t it? For example, after fighting the Demon King at first you thought was the enemy, the real enemy appears

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<sup>4</sup> Onomatopoeia for a "threatening atmosphere ".

and you end up joining forces to fight him. Or, in a world where several Demon King Class enemies exist, one becomes a companion.”

“D-do you think it’s alright to be saying those meta messages... ...?”

“There’s no problem. It’s for Hero Shido’s victory.”

Origami slightly nodded and quickly took Shido’s hand.

Then, Tohka, who was watching this, screamed from the sides.

“Ah! Hey, you scum! Don’t touch Shido!”

“Don’t bother. In the relationship between the Hero and the Demon King, there is no place for a nosy Priestess.”

“What did you say?! But the Hero and the Demon King are mutual enemies, right?!”

“You don’t understand anything. Yesterday’s enemy is today’s boyfriend. Since they were mutual enemies in the past, so is love born between them. And to begin with, you are a Priestess: someone who vows to serve God. Which means, you can’t have a lifelong partner. I want you to stay out of my business.”

“Wha... ...?!”

When she heard what Origami said, Tohka put on a stunned face. ... ..It somehow felt like the concepts of priestess and nun were mixed ... ..  
But it was Origami. She probably already knew what she was saying.

However, Tohka strongly shook her neck right away to regain her power.

“I-it doesn’t matter! In that case, it’s enough if Shido becomes God, right?!”

“... ...!”

At Tohka’s words, strangely, Origami shook her shoulders in surprise.

“I never thought I’d hear those words coming out of your mouth. It’s true that Shido is the right being to become God. You are right about that.”

“Right?! If Shido becomes God, then I can also----“

“However, after all, you have no place there.”

“Wha-what did you say?! What does that mean?!”

“You are someone who *only* serves Dios. A lesser being. Unlike that, I am God’s counterpart. I’ll corrupt and devour Shido who has become a God. A being capable of doing that can only be considered a demon, don’t you think?”

“I don’t really get it, but that sentence didn’t sound good!”

Tohka and Origami were arguing like always. Taking advantage of this opening, Shido escaped the two of them and went towards the counter while sighing.

“... ..Well, is this everyone?”

“... ..No, there’s still one left.”

After saying that, once again, Reine clapped her hands.

Then, this time, a young girl appeared walking from behind the counter dressed in villager clothing.

At first glance, she didn’t seem to have a combat class.

However, when he saw the face of the person wearing those clothes, Shido changed his mind completely. Black hair unevenly tied to the left and right. A pair of different colored eyes. A clock face was drawn on her left eye.

The young girl smiled slightly and, grabbing the hem of her skirt, she bowed.

“Good day to you. My name is Kurumi Tokisaki. My class is Villager.”

“You lie!!”

The moment he heard the girl’s--- Kurumi’ class, Shido cried out.

“Ara, ara... What’s wrong, Hero-sama? No matter how you look at me I’m a villager, am I not?”

“You just look like one! There’s no way *you* are a villager!”

“That’s not true. I’m *like* a charming and harmless Villager, and I’ll help you kill the demons.”

“See?! I knew it! A Demon King! You are the *party*’s second Demon King!”

Even though Shido screamed, it was too late.

And so was the Hero’s *party* formed, which objective was to defeat the Demon King.

- Hero (By force)
- Mage (Author of everything)
- Priestess (Physical)
- Warrior (Powerless)
- Dancer (Shy)
- Assassin (Careless)
- Dragon Knight & Dragon (Costume)
- Demon King (It’s there for some reason)
- Villager (It’s a lie)

These ten adventurer’s adventure, starts now!



“... ...So, where’s the Demon King?”

Shido, who had left the city with his companions, spoke to Maria who was walking on his left.

By the way, the ones walking alongside Shido at this moment were just three people, Maria, Tohka and Miku. The other girls were squeezing up inside a carriage that had been prepared by the Guild.

The horse that pulls the carriage is a beautiful white steed, and the cover of the carriage had written “Fraxinus” in it with large print... ...It was something very detailed.

Since those who can walk outside the carriage throughout the journey are a maximum of four people, including the Hero, the other members have to wait for their turns inside the carriage. The reason is very simple. Apparently, Maria

is afraid that if there's too many people, the events were love can bloom will develop in large quantity and she won't be able to process them all.

All the girls put on unsatisfied faces, but inside the game you can't go against Maria. Without anything else to do, they did rock-paper-scissors and they joined the *party* with a shift rotation system.

"Yes."

Maria nodded to answer Shido's question.

"The Demon King's castle is located in the center of the Northern Continent."

"Northern Continent?"

"Yes. This world can be divided into about four Continents. We are in the Eastern Continent. First we'll go through the Southern and Western Continents and we'll obtain an aircraft."

"Wait, wait! Do we have to walk such distance?! How long will this take?!"

"Don't worry. While they are called Continents, they are based on game screens. Thus, they are not that big."

"... ..I told you already, stop saying meta messages."

Shido smiled bitterly, and from his right, Tohka cheerfully spoke.

"Shido, this "adventure" thing is really fun, isn't it?! How to put it? It excites me a lot!"

After saying that, she showed him a thrilled smile.

"Hey, hey... ..You didn't forget our objective, right? Remember we're going to defeat the Demon King."

"U... fufu... .. Well... .. why... .. don't you... .. leave it at that... ..? Enjoying... .. the adventure is... .. a good thing... .. right~?... .. \*Haa\*... .. \*Haa\*... .."

After Shido said that while shrugging, Miku, who was walking behind them, answered him. ... .. Since it looked very heavy, they let her put on a lighter armor. But it looks like just the greatsword she was carrying on her back had a

huge weight. Even though they hadn't walked much, she already had bated breath.

Anyways, he understood what Tohka and Miku were saying. Shido looked around the landscape by rotating his neck.

Even though they had left just a few minutes ago, the scenery around them had changed enough to be surprised. A huge prairie. Trees growing in abundance. Before their eyes, nature that can rarely be seen when living in an urban area was expanding.

"Well... .. You're right. It's an amazing landscape. Is this also your doing, Maria?"

After hearing what Shido said, Maria bended her neck sideways with an I-don't-know-what-you-are-talking-about face.

"I don't know what you are talking about, Shido Itsuka. This world was always like this. Well then, to protect this beautiful landscape as well, let's defeat the Demon King."

"... ..Yeah, yeah."

Looks like things had turned out like this. Shido said sighing and pointed forward.

At that moment, the bushes that were in front rattled noisily. And then, from over there, several jelly-like things appeared jumping.

"Wha-what is it?!"

"----They are Slimes."

Shido put on his guard, and, from his side, he heard Maria's calm voice.

It was as Maria said. What appeared jumping in front of Shido and the girls were amoeba-like creatures, classic enemies in every RPG. They dragged their semitransparent bodies with amoeboid movements and were looking at Shido and the girls.

"Girls, be careful! Here they come!"

Shido screamed while drawing his sword. Then, Tohka, Miku and Maria, in response to that, put on their guards. But the moment Miku tried to draw the

sword she was carrying on her back she lost her balance and tumbled forward.

“\*Ay, ay\*... .. Auch!”

“Miku! Be careful!”

He shouted reflexively. But it was normal. After all, Miku, who had been thrown forward, ended up landing in front of the Slimes who were in rows.

“\*Kuh\*----“

At that moment, Tohka kicked the floor and went running towards Miku. However... .. it was too late. The Slimes expanded their gelatinous bodies and fiercely attacked Tohka and Miku.

“\*Guh\*... .. Damn you!”

“Kya-kyaaaaaaaaaah!”

“Tohka! Miku!”

The Slimes covered Tohka and Miku’s bodies. But...

“Mu... ..?”

“\*A~~nh\* I’m all sticky~... ..”

After saying this, Tohka tilted her neck suspiciously and Miku put her eyebrows in a "八" shape. ... .. Looks like they had received less damage than they had thought.

“... ..Ehh... Are you alright, girls?”

“U-umu. It feels unpleasant, but it’s nothing to worry about.”

“Yes~! It doesn’t hurt at all~!”

Tohka and Miku answered with a rather indifferent attitude. While Shido was frowning, Maria began to walk as if to explain what happened.

“The Slimes are the monsters that appear at the beginning of an adventure. Thus, they do not have too much attack power.

“We-well... .. Don’t scare us like that.”

“However...”

“"However"?”

Shido tilted his neck at Maria’s words. And at that moment, from up ahead, Tohka and Miku’s screams could be heard.

“Wha-what’s going on here?!”

“Kyaaaa! Kyaaaaaaaaa!”

“Wha-what’s wrong, girls---“



Shido stopped his words in half and narrowed his eyes.

But that was understandable. After all, their clothes that had been touched by the Slimes had begun to melt while making a bubbling noise.

“T-that... ..!”

“The direct damage is minimal, however, the Slimes melt clothing. I understand that this is common knowledge in fantasy.”

“... ..Wait! Maria, you too!”

At that moment, Shido screamed in surprise. Maria’s body was also covered by Slimes, which at some moment had crawled to her back, and started melting her robe. However, even though right now they were trying to expose her skin to the air, Maria, without even blushing, continued with the same calm expression she had.

“No problem. I am a Mage, thus, either with clothes or not, that won’t affect my defense power too much.”

“No, that’s not the problem here, don’t you think?!”

He quickly removed the Slimes that covered Maria’s body. In doing so, the Slimes fell down and fled away from her crawling on the floor. Similarly, Tohka and Miku shook themselves and the Slimes that had been covering them, unexpectedly; they easily detached and fell down.

But that wasn’t the end of it. The Slimes that had fallen off of Maria and the other two girls gathered in one place. Then, they merged their bodies and transformed into one giant Slime.

And if that wasn’t enough, new Slimes appeared from the bushes and surrounded Shido and Maria.

“Wha... ..?!”

At the same time Shido raised his voice in terror, the giant Slime expanded its body as if to show off its power and attacked Tohka and Miku again.

“\*Guh\*----!”

Tohka carried Miku under her arm and barely got out of there by jumping. The giant Slime covered the place where they both were a moment ago.

Tohka and Miku were already half naked. If the Slime attacked them right now, their clothes would melt completely.

However, defeating that Slime with just a Priestess and a powerless Warrior would be difficult. However, Shido and Maria were surrounded by the Slimes; if only they had enough time to make an exchange with the other members inside the carriage, but no----

At that instant, an idea popped up into Shido's head.

"Tohka! Use the strongest healing magic you know on that Slime!

"Nu... ..?! If I do that, the Slime will be full of energy!"

"Come on, just do it! Trust me!"

"Mu... .. A -alright!"

Tohka slightly nodded and put Miku down where she was. Then she turned to face the giant Slime.

Then, she threw her right hand up with all her strength and thrust her fist in the center of the Slime.

"\*Toryaaaaaaaaaaa!\*"

In an instant---- \*Bichah!\* The moment that sound was heard, the giant Slime exploded and a lot of jelly-like pieces spilled throughout the area. Those pieces, after crawling with amoeboid movements for a few moments, disappeared as if they were sucked into the ground. Looks like the Slimes also have intelligence. After seeing that, the Slimes that were surrounding Shido and Maria fled in fear into the bushes.

"Good... ..!"

It was just as he imagined. Shido strongly clenched his fist.

"O-Ooh... ..?!"

After alternatively watching her right hand and the place where the Slime was until that moment, Tohka opened her eyes wide looking surprised.

“T-the Slime blew up because of the healing magic?! Was that its weakness... ...?”

“... ..Yeah. In fact, it’s as you say. Not just Slimes, many other monsters are weak to healing magic. So try it on them without holding back, alright?”

“Umu! I’ll do that!”

Tohka said that with a carefree smile.

... ..Shido swore that, so that she wouldn’t need to use her "healing magic", he absolutely won’t get hurt.



Shido and the girls’ adventure in traveling the continent lasted several hours after that.

All the girls had unfitting classes, but because since the beginning all their abilities were high, there were not any difficult battles.

Well, if thought about it, it was only natural. Shido aside, nine people who were either Spirits or *wizards* were gathered. In a normal RPG, it’s impossible to have these kinds of members from the beginning. It was impossible to lose against the mediocre monsters that appeared throughout the journey. No matter how you look at it, they were *cheating*.

If anything, the hardest things they had to endure were things like the events at the city and the dungeon. In the Dance Competition to Choose the Miko<sup>5</sup>, since Yoshino was too embarrassed, they had to blindfold the whole audience; ever since they found some plants that put the enemy to sleep, for some reason, Origami volunteered herself at every turn to prepare dinner... .. And things like that.

By the way, the worst challenge they had to endure was when the Yamai sisters got completely hooked up with a casino established in one of the cities amid the journey, and had a competition betting all the *party*’s goods. If they hadn’t been

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<sup>5</sup> Miko: a type of priestesses.

stopped there, by now, Shido and the other girls, without a doubt, would be working for the casino.

Anyways, Shido and the girls, having managed to overcome several difficulties, had finally reached their destination located in the center of the Northern Continent---- the Demon King's castle.

Shido gulped and held his breath while looking up to see a huge gate rising up in a dingy hallway.

"At last... .. we made it here, right?"

The girls who were aligned in front of the door, nodded in unison to those words.

"Yes. It is praiseworthy."

"Umu. If we defeat the Demon King here, peace will return to the world, right?"

"Ah~, ah~♪... Fufu. There's a magnificent echo in here, isn't there~?"

"I-I'll do... .. my best... ..!"

"Fun. Let's finish this quickly. I want to sleep in my bed after so long."

"Kuku... The King of Eternal Darkness, huh?--- I think I'll show you the power of this Dragon of Destruction."

"Agreement. Our *party* is the strongest one."

"It is obvious that the *ending* is mine and Shido's wedding party."

"Ufufu... .. I wonder if this Demon King-san is delicious~... .."

... ..It felt like some of them had their tension elsewhere, but he didn't care for the moment.

That's right. Since the carriage couldn't enter the castle, all members of the *party* were allowed to accompany him as an exception.

The great *party* of ten members, as expected, didn't go through any difficult fights against the enemies of the Demon King's castle, which was assumed to be the last dungeon, and at last they made it to the last gate, beyond which the Demon King was supposed to be waiting.

"Well then, I'll open it."

After hearing what Shido said, all the girls, once again, nodded and aligned behind Shido's back.

Shido slightly let out his breath, he inserted the key they had just obtained in the keyhole and made it turn with a metallic sound.

Then, the gate shook with a \*Go, go, go, go, go\* sound... ...and opened to the right and left.

On the other side of the gate there was a dark and wide space. Its architecture is probably similar to that of a royal audience hall. Lights were aligned on the wall decorated with a sinister design, and on the center of the room there was a throne.

And on the throne, there sat a monster wrapped in a black cloak. It was a humanoid type, but its surface was clearly unlike that of a person. Maybe it could be said that it was like the armor and helmet of a knight from which many horns of different sizes were born. It was a strange figure with a distorted silhouette.

"Kukuku... .. Congratulations on making it this far, Hero-domo."

The Demon King made his deep voice sound throughout the room. Surprisingly, his way of talking was like Kaguya's.

"I never imagined you'd cross my castle protected by the elite of my demons. Kuku... It's a waste that such power is in the body of a human."

The Demon King chuckled after saying that. ... ..Well, rather than the body of a human, to be correct, most people in the *party* were Spirits.

"I like you. What do you think? Wouldn't you become my ally? If you do, I'll give you a third of the world."

"... .."

Somehow, he turned up to be a somewhat miserly Demon King. ... ..Well, a third is big enough, but, for some reason, he couldn't help thinking that way.

Anyway, it was obvious that he couldn't accept that offer. Shido pointed the sword he held on his hand towards the Demon King. It was a legendary sword, which they obtained during the journey that only the Hero could use.

They had heard that they wouldn't be able to defeat the Demon King without that sword.

"I refuse! I'll defeat you, Demon King!"

"Kukuku... How foolish!"

The Demon King shouted and stood up from the throne suddenly opening his cloak.

"Very well! In that case, I'll have your eyes behold the power of the King of demons! Come on, attack me!"

When the Demon King said that...

""Ooooooooooooooooooooooooooooooooooooooh!""

All the Spirits behind Shido's back attacked the Demon King at the same time.

"He----?"

The Demon King let out a giddy voice.

But it was too late. The Demon King's legs were grabbed by the Villager (It's a lie)'s shadow; his body received the Priestess (Physical)' "healing magic", whose strength was increased by the Warrior (Powerless)'s song; he suffered the Dragon Knight and Dragon (Costume)'s combined attack; he was maliciously attacked by the Demon King (It's there for a reason); the Assassin (Careless) put a poisoned candy in his mouth; and finally, the puppet that the Dancer (Shy) was carrying caressed his head, and he fell flat on his face right there.

"\*Gu-gufu... ..\*"

After that, the Demon King stood still. The Spirits let out a victory shout ["Ohh!"].

"Ooh! We did it, Shido!"

"Ara, ara... He was just words, wasn't he?"

"He has no right to be called Demon King. As I thought, the only Demon King who can stand next to Shido, is me."

"... ..Ehh..."

Shido, with sweat on his forehead, scratched his cheek while strongly gripping on his hand the legendary sword, not knowing what to do with it. ... ..The Demon King had been overwhelmingly outnumbered. He felt sorry for the poor Demon King.

Anyway, with this they had supposedly reached their goal. To change the mood he cleared his throat and looked towards Maria's direction.

"We defeated the Demon King... .. What do we have to do now?"

"... .."

Shido then realized that Maria seemed to have a somewhat unsatisfied face.

"What's wrong, Maria?"

"No. It's just that, I couldn't obtain the result I wanted."

"Ah... .."

Now that she mentioned it, the adventure's objective was supposed to know "what is love?" inside a dangerous situation. But since the members were too complete, to begin with, they weren't involved in any really dangerous situation. There were many events throughout the journey, but, in the end, what they did was not so different from what they always do.

"Well, those things happen sometimes. Let's do our best again starting tomorrow."

"You are right. ----There should be a chest behind the throne. If you return the Jewel of Light that's inside of it to the King, the game will end."

"Mh. I get it. Girls, behind the throne----"

But then...

Shido stopped his words in half.

The reason was simple. The Demon King, who was lying flat on his face after being thrashed by all the girls, suddenly stood up.

"... ..! Girls! Run away!"

He suddenly had a bad feeling and shouted. Looks like the other girls also felt that strange sensation, since they kicked the floor and moved away jumping from the Demon King's side.

The next moment, the Demon King's body rippled as if it were made of bubbles and he began to increase his size more and more, until finally, he took an abominable appearance. A giant body with wings and a tail. Fangs growing irregularly. If you only saw his silhouette, he probably looked like a dragon similar to the costume Kaguya was wearing. However, the many eyes that grew all over his body and his skin that looked as if the muscles were exposed to the surface, gave an impression that converged in one word; which is "monster".

“Wha-what the hell is that... ..?”

Shido let out a moan as his brow furrowed. The fact that a Demon King had a second transformation wasn't strange at all. But, how to say it? It felt like his appearance design concept was too different to that of the other monsters that had appeared so far. It was as if a zombie from a shooter game suddenly appeared inside a RPG fantasy world. No matter how you saw it, the CERO classification went from A to Z.<sup>6</sup>

At that instant, the Demon King his huge body and greatly shook his tail.

“\*Gu... ..!”

“Wha... ..?!”

Tohka and Kotori were there and were hit by the tail and sent flying, and ended up hitting one of the room's walls. The wall they hit cracked and several chunks of stone fell from it.

Next, the Demon King opened his mouth wide and a moment later he spat big flames. Since the ones there were the Yamai sisters, they narrowly dodged it, but had they received the attack directly, it surely would have become a tragedy.

“He-hey, this is no longer a game... ..!”

He was clearly different from all the monsters that had appeared so far. He definitely intended to kill them all and he really had a tremendous power. Ever

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<sup>6</sup> CERO (Computer Entertainment Rating Organization) is a Japanese entertainment rating organization based in Tokyo that rates video game content in console games with levels of rating that informs the customer of the nature of the product and for what age group it is suitable. A classification: all ages; Z classification: ages 18 and up only.

since the adventure began, this was the first time that it really felt like a "threat".

"Maria, don't you believe this is a bit too much?!"

"... ...I did not configure this event."

"What did you say... ...?!"

At Maria's words, Shido frowned.

"I will investigate the cause. Give me some time, please."

After saying this, Maria, suddenly, closed her eyes while standing where she was, looking as if she was in some kind of meditation.

However, it was obvious that the Demon King was not going to wait patiently for her to finish. The Demon King slightly moved his body as if he had noticed Maria's strange movements, and a moment later he bent his neck backwards as if taking a big breath.

"... ...!"

Due to that, Shido held his breath. That was the same fire-breathing movement from a few moments ago.

Shido's assumption was correct. The next moment, after the Demon King opened his big mouth, he released an attack from it, as if it were a flame thrower, pointing at Maria.

"Maria... ...!"

Shido held his breath and kicked the floor nearly half unconsciously.

"\_\_\_\_"

Maria, who had her eyes closed, suddenly felt her body floating in the air.

For a moment, she didn't know what had happened, but she understood right away. Shido held Maria's body in his arms and he jumped out of the place where they were.

At the same time, she also understood why Shido had suddenly done that. The place where she was at a moment ago had been engulfed by the Demon King's

red flames. If Shido hadn't rescued her, she probably would have been burned by those infernal flames.

If it were like always, nothing in this world could harm her. But, clearly, that Demon King was an *irregular* being. The cause is unknown so far. Would it be a casual *bug*?, or maybe----

"Shido?"

Then, Maria interrupted her thoughts. It was because she noticed Shido's abnormality, who had rescued her.

That's right. Shido, who had protected Maria, couldn't dodge the flames completely. His cloak on fire fell and the traces of a painful burn were engraved on his back.

"----!"

The moment she saw that, Maria was attacked by a feeling as if her heart, which she isn't supposed to have, was being compressed.

It was a strange feeling. Shido ended up getting hurt to protect her. At the same time she realized that, even though she wasn't hurt, for some reason, something like an intense pain ran through her body.

"Hey... .. Are you alright, Maria?"

"... ..I am fine. More importantly, you are..."

"\*Ha, ha\*... .. Well, it's the same as always."

After saying that, Shido showed her a smile while sweat ran down his forehead.

"----"

The moment she saw that face, Maria felt once again a sensation as if her heart was beating fast.

Maria didn't know what that was. It was a nice feeling, but painful at the same time; it was a feeling difficult to describe in a few words.

----Then.

"Haaaaaa!"

While Maria was confused, Tohka's scream shook her eardrum.

Looks like she used her "healing magic" on the Demon King. With a sharp hook nailed to his huge body, the Demon King writhed in pain.

The other Spirits as well, after Tohka, began to attack the Demon King from all directions. Of course, he was something totally different from the Demon King from a while ago. He wouldn't fall that easily.

But because of the attacks he received from all directions, the Demon King's conscience turned away from Maria's direction. Maria shook her head slightly, and after removing the strange feeling that was born in her heart, she closed her eyes again and sighed heavily \*Fuu\*.

In a moment, the Demon King's figure, which was fighting the Spirits, shone slightly and his movements became a little slow.

"Maria, this is... ..?!"

"... ..Originally, this should stop him completely, but it looks like now this is the least I can do. However----"

"----Yes, it's enough."

Shido nodded as if understanding what Maria wanted to say, and he stood where he was. The painful burn on his back had been healed at some point. It wasn't that he had manipulated the data. That was simply the manifestation of the power he had before coming to this world.

Then, he slowly raised his sword. A legendary sword, programmed so that only the Hero could handle it. The only divine sword that exists in this world with the power of light to defeat the Demon King.

"After all, I think the Hero is the one who has to defeat the Demon King. ----I'm sorry, Demon King. I should have been the one to strike the last blow."

After saying that, Shido ran across the floor pointing at the Demon King, who was under attack from all directions and had his movements restricted.

"Uooooooooooooooooooooo!"



While the wind blew her long metallic black hair and her perfectly matching black habit, she was spinning around over and over at the top of the tower.

“Looks like you could defeat the Demon King without problems, couldn’t you? --  
--Well, I wonder if throughout this adventure, *you* managed to learn love.”

After saying this, she raised the edges of her lips into a smile and watched arrogantly the castle grounds which expanded under her eyes. Over there was the group of the Hero who defeated the Demon King and obtained the Jewel of Light

Halfway, she had interfered with the program that made up the Demon King and released his *limiter*... ... But, after all, it looks like just manipulating an existing program was not enough.

“But... ... Well, I guess today I can be satisfied with this. Even though I was watching from the sidelines, their adventure was fun.”

She continued with the word "But...".

“That feeling that arose in your heart; to know its meaning... ...looks like you still have a ways to go, don’t you?”

After saying that, the girl---- Arusu, strongly kicked the floor and disappeared into thin air.



The next day. When he opened his eyes, the fantastic world was once again Tengu city.

Since yesterday was the triumphal return of the Hero’s group who had defeated the Demon King, a great feast was held at the royal castle where they drank and sang without stopping, (well, just in case, what they drank were just juices). But, now that he realized, his armor had become his pajamas and the royal castle was his everyday bedroom. Apparently, everything went back to the way it was before while he slept.

Right now, all the girls who went on the adventure are gathered in the living room of the Itsuka residence, cheerfully talking about what they experienced yesterday.

“But it was very funny, wasn’t it?! Will we do it again, Arusu?!”

“Yes~, it was more exciting than I had imagined~. Ah, but if we do it again, make my class be a Diva, okay~?”

“I-I... well... I’d like to be... something like a Mage... who wears a robe... ...”

“Next time I’ll definitely be the Dragon Knight! And I’ll have the pleasure of riding the Dragon Yuzuru!”

“Thought. That seems funny as well. I’ll let you ride and fall off a faithful Dragon.”

“I pass. Before that, we must quickly find a way to return to our world.”

“Ufufu... Well, I don’t see what’s wrong with it? Even if you are in a hurry, you won’t get any results, you know?”

“If we are doing it again, I wish my class to be Shido’s wife.”

They seem to be enjoying their conversation. Looks like all of them, unexpectedly, had a lot of fun.

But among them, there was a girl making a complicated face. ----It was Maria.

“What’s wrong, Maria? Are you still worried about what happened with the Demon King? Nobody got hurt, so, why don’t you let it go?”

“... ..No, it is true that it worries me, but more importantly, the problem is that I still do not understand what love is. I thought that the possibilities of knowing it were high this time, but...”

“Ahaha... ...”

Since Maria was the same as always, he let out a forced smile unintentionally.

But, maybe she had heard those words, Origami slowly moved her eyebrow.

“----About that, I have an idea.”

“An idea?”

Maria tilted her neck. After nodding slightly, Origami continued her words.

“You tried to investigate the process of the formation of love to understand what this is. If it is like that, I thought of a method that may be worthwhile to try.”

“Would you let me hear it?”

“In psychiatry it is known as "Stockholm syndrome"----“

“*Stop!* Wait, Origami!”

Shido stopped Origami halfway through her words.

However, it was too late. Maria had already begun the search for information

“----Stockholm syndrome. It refers to when the victim of a crime, due to spending a long time with the criminal, develops feelings close to a strong affection or compassion, right? I see. They end up developing love for the object of their fear... .. It is an interesting case. Looks like it may be worth a try.”

“Wait a moment! For God’s sake, what the hell are you planning to do?!”

“It really is nothing complicated. First, I’ll transform all the girls into a group of criminals who have committed heinous crimes, and Shido Itsuka into that group’s captive hostage----“

“Of course not!”

Shido’s bitter cry resounded throughout the virtual world.

[Fin]

## Afterword

“----Daaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaate A Live... ...!! Second game, Ars Installaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaallllllllllll!!”

Screaming like that, like it was a deadly technique, doesn't seem very great, right? Or maybe it does? I see.

Thus, "Date a Live Ars Install" has gone on sale. Did you play it? To those who didn't play it, don't worry! Serious spoilers have been avoided. Probably.

Of course this time as well, instead of this "*Afterword*", I asked they increased the pages of "Date A-Rusinstall" (Tsukano-san's *4-koma* that comes after this). But it was useless. Why will it be? Everyone would be happier that way...

Just like last time, I was in charge of developing new characters, production of the main plot and the overall supervision.

The story this time begins after Shido and the other girls are trapped inside a game world. A game world, a game world! It's my childhood dream. Ever since I was born I've been praying for the development of a gear that allows you to dive into the world of a game by logging in through a terminal at the head.

Inside this game, the story basically unfolds having a galge world as the main axis, where Shido was locked in. But, since he entered a game, I thought he should have an adventure, even if just a little. Thus, the special novel this time ended up being that of a fantasy RPG. Did you like it? If so, then I'm glad.

Finally, in this game, no more and no less than two new characters appear! Also, the game's timeline is located between the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> novels. Thus, the novel characters that appear are a lot more than in "Rinne Utopia", the previous game. Yess~, it was a lot of work~!

The main heroine this time is a girl called, as the title also implies, Maria Arusu. Tsunako-san's designs are superb this time too. But since "that" or "that" appeared only at the end of the main route, make sure you go through the whole game!

The one who plays Arusu is Suzuko Mimori-san. If you think about Mimori, that comes to mind right? That's right. The "gdgd"<sup>7</sup> fairy. The pink one. Needless to say she's doing other things, but personally I prefer that one. There's no third season yet?

Well, last, but not least, this game was developed through the efforts of many people. To all who were involved with the production, I give them my sincere thanks.

"Date a Live" will still last for a while.

Please, continue to support us as usual!

March 2014

Koushi Tachibana.

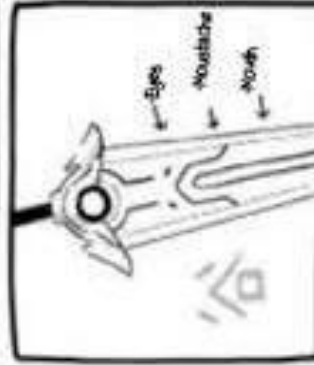
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<sup>7</sup> *gdgd Fairies* (gdgd 妖精 s; gdgd Fairies), is an anime where Suzuko Mimori was the CV of a pink-haired fairy who should have been somewhat lazy, slothful, since "gdgd" means "gudaguda", which means, among other things, "lazy", "slacker", "slothful", etc.

I'll ask you



The "valley" girl



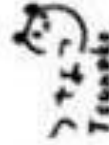
The cover girl



The lovely and lively girl



# Date A-Rusinstall



Afterword> In the Afterword of the previous game I drew a 4-koma, and this time I was asked to do the same. So I had to think on the run.

I'd love to have the chance to draw the game exclusive characters somewhere else!